

SUBCOMMITTEE: COMMERCE AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES

SENATE BILL NO. 1197

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE

(Proposed by the House Committee on Appropriations

on _____)

(Patron Prior to Substitute--Senator Locke)

A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Chapter 3 of Title 58.1 an article numbered 13.4, consisting of sections numbered 58.1-439.29 and 58.1-439.30, relating to Virginia housing opportunity tax credit.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding in Chapter 3 of Title 58.1 an article numbered 13.4, consisting of sections numbered 58.1-439.29 and 58.1-439.30, as follows:

Article 13.4.

Virginia Housing Opportunity Tax Credit Act.

§ 58.1-439.29. Definitions.

As used in this article, unless the context requires a different meaning:

"Authority" means the Virginia Housing Development Authority, or its successor agency.

"Credit period" means the credit period as defined in § 42(f)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code, as amended.

"Eligibility certificate" means a certificate issued by the Authority to the owner of a qualified project certifying that such project qualifies for the Virginia housing opportunity tax credit authorized by this article, and specifying the amount of housing opportunity tax credits that the owner of such qualified project may claim in each year of the credit period. The Authority shall issue an eligibility certificate to a qualified project upon the Authority's approval of a final cost certification that complies with the Authority's requirements.

"Federal low-income housing tax credit" means the federal tax credit as provided in § 42 of the Internal Revenue Code, as amended.

27 "Housing opportunity tax credit" or "tax credit" means the tax credit created by this article.

28 "Qualified project" means a qualified low-income building, as defined in § 42(c) of the Internal
29 Revenue Code, as amended, that is located in Virginia, is initiated on or after January 1, 2022, and is
30 issued an eligibility certificate. "Qualified project" does not include a project for which a federal low-
31 income housing tax credit has previously been issued.

32 "Qualified taxpayer" means a taxpayer owning an interest, direct or indirect, through one or more
33 pass-through entities, in a qualified project at any time prior to filing a tax return claiming a housing
34 opportunity tax credit.

35 "Taxpayer" means an individual, corporation, S corporation, partnership, limited partnership,
36 limited liability partnership, limited liability company, joint venture, or nonprofit organization.

37 "Virginia tax liability" means the income taxes imposed by Articles 2 (§ 58.1-320 et seq.), 6 (§
38 58.1-360 et seq.), and 10 (§ 58.1-400 et seq.) of this chapter, Chapter 12 (§ 58.1-1200 et seq.), Article 1
39 (§ 58.1- 2500 et seq.) of Chapter 25, and Article 2 (§ 58.1-2620 et seq.) of Chapter 26. An insurance
40 company claiming a housing opportunity tax credit against the taxes, licenses, and other fees, fines, and
41 penalties imposed by Article 1 of Chapter 25, including any retaliatory tax imposed on insurance
42 companies by the Code of Virginia, shall not be required to pay any additional tax as a result of claiming
43 the housing opportunity tax credit. The housing opportunity tax credit may fully offset any retaliatory tax
44 imposed by the Code of Virginia.

45 **§ 58.1-439.30. Tax credit.**

46 A. For taxable years beginning on and after January 1, 2022, but before January 1, 2025, a housing
47 opportunity tax credit shall be allowed for each qualified project for each year of the credit period, in an
48 amount equal to the amount of federal low-income housing tax credit allocated or allowed by the Authority
49 to such qualified project, except that there shall be no reduction in the tax credit allowable in the first year
50 of the credit period due to the calculation in 26 U.S.C. § 42(f)(2).

51 B. A qualified taxpayer may claim a housing opportunity tax credit against its Virginia tax liability
52 prior to reduction by any other credits allowed the taxpayer. The housing opportunity tax credit may be
53 allocated by pass-through entities to some or all of its partners, members, or shareholders in any manner

54 agreed to by such persons, regardless of whether or not any such person is allocated or allowed any portion
55 of any federal low-income housing tax credit with respect to the qualified project, whether or not the
56 allocation of the housing opportunity tax credit under the terms of the agreement has substantial economic
57 effect within the meaning of § 704(b) of the Internal Revenue Code, and whether any such person is
58 deemed a partner for federal income tax purposes as long as the partner or member would be considered
59 a partner or member as defined under applicable state law, and has been admitted as a partner or member
60 on or prior to the date for filing the qualified taxpayer's tax return, including any amendments thereto,
61 with respect to the year of the housing opportunity tax credit. Such pass-through entities or qualified
62 taxpayer may assign all or any part of its interest, including its interest in the tax credits, to one or more
63 pass-through entities or qualified taxpayers, and the qualified taxpayer shall be able to claim the housing
64 opportunity tax credit so long as its interest is acquired prior to the filing of its tax return claiming the
65 housing opportunity tax credit.

66 C. The housing opportunity tax credit authorized by this article shall not be refundable. Any
67 housing opportunity tax credit not used in a taxable year may be carried forward for the succeeding five
68 years.

69 D. A qualified taxpayer claiming a housing opportunity tax credit shall submit a copy of the
70 eligibility certificate at the time of filing its tax return with the Department. If the owner of the qualified
71 project has applied to the Authority for the eligibility certificate but the Authority has not yet issued the
72 eligibility certificate at the time the qualified taxpayer files its original tax return claiming the housing
73 opportunity tax credit, the taxpayer may claim the housing opportunity tax credit based upon the amount
74 of tax credit set forth in the carryover allocation or 42(m) letter, as applicable, issued to the qualified
75 project and shall amend its tax return to include the eligibility certificate upon its receipt. If the amount of
76 tax credit in the eligibility certificate is different than the amount of tax credit previously claimed, the
77 taxpayer shall adjust the tax credit amount claimed on the amended tax return.

78 E. If under § 42 of the Internal Revenue Code, as amended, a portion of any federal low-income
79 housing credits taken on a qualified project is required to be recaptured or is otherwise disallowed during
80 the credit period, the taxpayer claiming housing opportunity tax credits with respect to such project shall

also be required to recapture a portion of any tax credits authorized by this article. The percentage of housing opportunity tax credits subject to recapture shall be equal to the percentage of federal low-income housing credits subject to recapture or otherwise disallowed during such period. Any tax credits recaptured or disallowed shall increase the income tax liability of the qualified taxpayer who claimed the tax credits in a like amount and shall be included on the tax return of the qualified taxpayer submitted for the taxable year in which the recapture or disallowance event is identified.

F. The Authority shall administer the housing opportunity tax credit program and shall be authorized to promulgate the regulations and guidelines necessary to implement and administer this article. Such regulations and guidelines may include the imposition of application, allocation, certification, and monitoring fees designed to recoup the costs of the Authority in administering the housing opportunity tax credit. The Authority may also promulgate regulations and guidelines in consultation with the Department of Taxation to allow a qualified project to elect in its application to the Authority to sell all or any portion of its credits awarded pursuant to this article to one or more unrelated taxpayers. Such regulations and guidelines, if promulgated, shall not take effect prior to January 1, 2024, and shall not apply to credits awarded prior to January 1, 2024.

G. The total amount of tax credits available under this section shall not exceed \$7.5 million per fiscal year. Tax credits shall be allocated by the Authority on a first-come, first-served basis.

H. The housing opportunity tax credit created pursuant to this article may not be claimed for taxable years beginning prior to January 1, 2022.

2. That the provisions of the first enactment of this act shall not become effective unless reenacted by the 2022 Session of the General Assembly.

3. That the Department of Housing and Community Development and the Virginia Housing Development Authority shall continue to convene the stakeholder advisory group created pursuant to Chapter 517 of the Acts of Assembly of 2020. The stakeholder advisory group shall continue its work as provided in such act, and shall report its recommendations to the Governor, the Secretary of Commerce and Trade, the Director of the Department of Housing and Community Development, and the commissioners of the Virginia Housing Development Authority by November 1, 2021.

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